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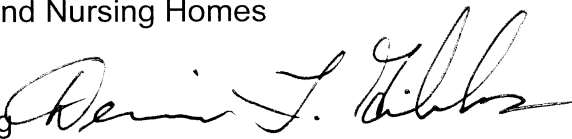
Glenn A. McCall

Coleman E. Buckhouse, MD

April 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrators, Hospitals and Nursing Homes

From: Dennis L. Gibbs, Director
Division of Health Licensing 

Subject: Temporary Alternative to the Temporary Provider-wide Exception to the Requirements of §803 of Regulation 61-16, Standards for Licensing Hospitals and Institutional General Infirmaries, and §1405.C of Regulation 61-17, Standards for Licensing Nursing Homes

Standards established in South Carolina regulations require hospitals and nursing homes to have the facility dietary services under the direction of a dietitian or qualified food service supervisor. Regulation 61-16, §803 requires that the qualified food service supervisor, "1. Is a graduate of a dietetic technician or dietetic assistant training program approved by the American Dietetic Association; or 2. Is a graduate of a State-approved course; or 3. Has training and experience in food service supervision and management equivalent in content to the programs in paragraph 1 or 2 above." Regulation 61-17, §1405.C requires that the qualified food service supervisor, "1. Is a graduate of a dietetic technician training program approved by the American Dietetic Association; or 2. Is a graduate of a course of study meeting the requirements of the American Dietetic Association and approved by the state; or 3. Has at least three (3) years of training and experience in meal service supervision and management in a military service equivalent in content to the programs described in §1405.C.1 and C.2." The Department has established a framework to provide for a temporary exception to the above standards to evaluate the practicability of an individual that is certified by the Dietary Managers Association to be considered as a qualified food service supervisor in hospitals and nursing homes.

By memorandum dated August 1, 2008, the Department issued a temporary Provider-wide Exception to hospitals and nursing homes (effective for a two (2) year period) regarding the requirement for dietary services to be under the direction of a dietitian or qualified food service supervisor. The Temporary Provider-wide Exception to §803 of Regulation 61-16 and §1405.C. of Regulation 61-17 required all hospitals and nursing homes to meet the standards as outlined in each respective regulation, *i.e.*, R.61-16, §803, and R.61-17, §1405.C, or meet any one of the following options:

"The qualified food service supervisor:

1. Is a graduate of a dietetic technician training program approved by the American Dietetic Association; or
2. Is a graduate of a course of study meeting the requirements of the American Dietetic Association and approved by the state; or
3. Is certified by the Certifying Board for Dietary Managers of the Dietary Managers Association and maintains that credential through forty-five hours of Dietary Managers Association approved continuing education every three years; or
4. Must have completed a Dietary Managers Association approved course curriculum necessary to take the certification examination required to become a certified dietary manager; or
5. Has at least three (3) years of training and experience in meal service supervision and management in a military service equivalent in content to the programs described in paragraph 1, 2, or 3 above."

In consideration of the Department's commitment to establishing standards that do not compromise the health, safety, and well-being of the patients and/or residents, the Department has determined that it is appropriate at this time to provide for a temporary alternative to the above exception. All hospitals and nursing homes will be required to meet the standards outlined in each respective regulation, *i.e.*, R.61-16, §803, and R.61-17, §1405.C, or the alternative standards in the Temporary Provider-wide Exception of August 1, 2008, or the following alternative standard:

The qualified food service supervisor shall:

1. Have been employed in their present position as food service supervisor since August 1, 2008; and
2. Be currently enrolled or actively seeking enrollment in an approved course curriculum necessary to take the certification examination required to become a certified dietary manager; and
3. Successfully complete the dietary manager certification examination no later than June 30, 2010.

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Temporary Provider-wide Alternative

This temporary provider-wide alternative is effective through June 30, 2010, and applies to any hospital or nursing home licensed by the Department. It relates solely to South Carolina licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions, you may call Randy Clark at 545-4230.

DLG/shh

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